MARVEL® COMICS

WOLVERINE® KNIGHT OF TERRA

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KNIGHT of TERRA

BEYOND THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT LIES THE REALM OF GESHEM, A KINGDOM GOVERNED BY GALLANTRY, VALOR, AND MAGIC.

OVERCOME BY A STRANGE MALADY, THE KINGDOM'S YOUNG QUEEN, RAIN, INADVERTENTLY BREAKS THE LAND'S SECRET LINK BETWEEN MONARCH AND MAGIC, SENDING THE KINGDOM INTO CHAOS.

IN A LAND NOW STRICKEN WITH ANARCHY AND TURMOIL, GESHEM'S GREATEST FEAR, THE DREADED GREAT BEAST, RISES AND BEGINS HIS QUEST FOR ULTIMATE DOMINATION OF THIS MAGICAL WORLD.

AND THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO STAND IN THE CREATURE'S WAY ARE TWO STRANGERS FROM THE WORLD CALLED EARTH.

MUTANTS. THE X-MEN WOLVERINE AND WOLFSBANE. SUMMONED HERE TO SAVE LADY RAIN, DEFEAT THE BEAST AND RESTORE UNITY TO THE LAND — OR DIE TRYING.

RETURN NOW TO THE REALM OF GESHEM AS WOLVERINE BECOMES THE KNIGHT OF TERRA.

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THIS IS NOT HIS WORLD. IT IS THE OTHERDIMENSIONAL LAND OF GESHEM.
SOME MIGHT SAY THIS IS NOT HIS FIGHT. HE WOULDN'T CARE.
THIS YOUR WORK, BUB?
THIS IS MINE, YES. A THOUSAND KNIGHTS I HAVE LAID WASTE. SAVE FOR THE HIGH LORDS AND LADIES, THEY WERE THE BEST GESHEM HAD TO OFFER.
NOW THEY ARE ALL VICTIMS OF THE BEAST. AS WILL BE THE QUEEN!
AND WHAT ARE YOU, LITTLE MAN?
I'M NOT LOCAL. I'M ALSO NOT IMPRESSED. AND I'VE BEEN ASKED TO PUT YOU AWAY.
SNIKT

SNARRL

SO LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH. I GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO.

RRIP

SAWWK

GRRAHR

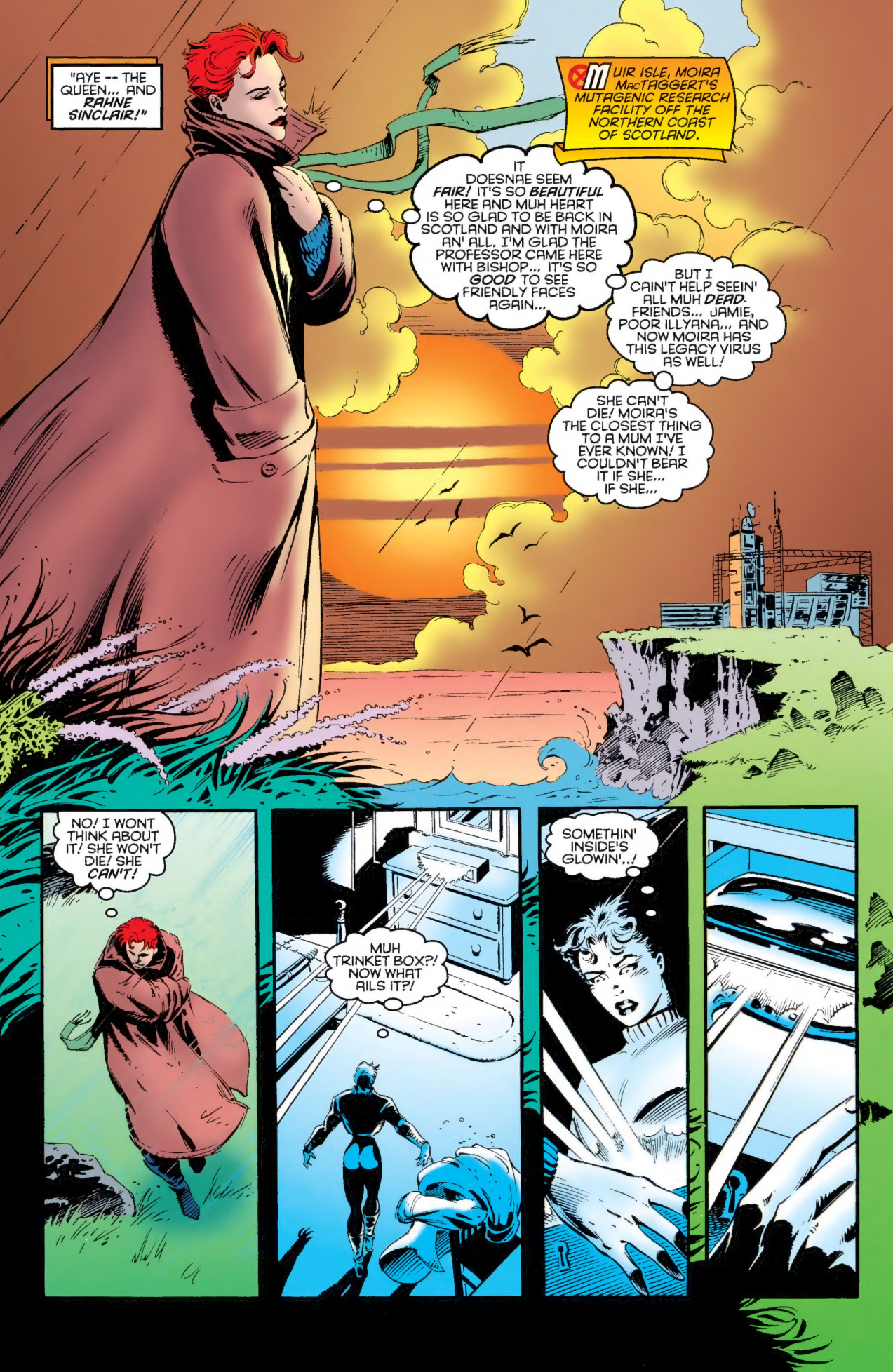
SNIKT

RAHRR
I WILL SUCK THE MARROW FROM YOUR BONES!
SUCK THIS.
YAAARR
RHAHAHA
YOU REMIND ME OF A FELLOW NAMED CREED, BACK IN MY OWN WORLD. DON'T CARE FOR *HIM* EITHER.
STRIKE AGAIN! YOUR BLOWS ARE NOTHING. THE LAND ITSELF *HEALS* ME!

SO YOU GOT A JUICED-UP HEALING FACTOR.
I GOT ONE, TOO.
LET'S SEE HOW QUICKLY YOU HEAL WHEN YOU'RE HANDY, BITE-SIZED PIECES.
SHWOK

Uhn!
SHWUNK
FEEL THAT? THOSE ARE MY CLAWS IN YOUR LUNG.
AHHRR
A TWIST OF MY WRIST AND I HAVE A HANDFUL OF INTESTINE.
CRAWL OFF AND DIE, LITTLE MAN. THE BEAST IS DONE WITH YOU.
TREMBLE, PRECIOUS QUEEN!
THE BEAST HAS RISEN AGAIN AND NOTHING AND NO ONE SHALL PREVENT ME FROM TAKING BACK WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY MINE!

THE CAPITAL OF GESHEM.
KRAKOOM
AN EVIL STORM, HECTOR. AN EVIL *OMEN.* THE VERY ELEMENTS REFLECT THE ANARCHY AND REVOLT WITHIN THE LAND.
HOW MUCH *WORSE* WILL IT BE IF THE BEAST EVER REACHES THE CASTLE --
IS THAT LIKELY, SHAMAN? IT WAS A MIGHTY ARMY THAT THEY SENT TO CONFRONT THE BEAST.
PFAH! THE BEAST IS A FORCE OF NATURE. MIGHT AS WELL SEND AN ARMY TO FIGHT A *HURRICANE!*
I HAVE SENT A WARRIOR OF MY OWN BUT...
IF THE QUEEN FALLS, THEN THE LAND WILL FOLLOW AND EVERYTHING WILL BE BLOOD.
THE BEAST WILL HAVE FREE REIN ONCE MORE.
DESPERATE TIMES YIELD *DESPERATE* MEASURES.
MAY THE QUEEN FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I AM ABOUT TO DO.


"AYE -- THE QUEEN... AND RAHNE SINCLAIR!"
MUIR ISLE, MOIRA MacTAGGERT'S MUTAGENIC RESEARCH FACILITY OFF THE NORTHERN COAST OF SCOTLAND.
IT DOESNAE SEEM FAIR! IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL HERE AND MUH HEART IS SO GLAD TO BE BACK IN SCOTLAND AND WITH MOIRA AN' ALL. I'M GLAD THE PROFESSOR CAME HERE WITH BISHOP... IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE FRIENDLY FACES AGAIN...
BUT I CAIN'T HELP SEEIN' ALL MUH DEAD. FRIENDS... JAMIE, POOR ILLYANA... AND NOW MOIRA HAS THIS LEGACY VIRUS AS WELL!
SHE CAN'T DIE! MOIRA'S THE CLOSEST THING TO A MUM I'VE EVER KNOWN! I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF SHE... IF SHE...
NO! I WONT THINK ABOUT IT! SHE WON'T DIE! SHE CAN'T!
MUH TRINKET BOX?! NOW WHAT AILS IT?!
SOMETHIN' INSIDE'S GLOWIN'...!

STRANGE. THERE'S NAETHING HERE BUT BITS AND BOBS AND MEMENTOS I'VE BEEN COLLECTING, BUT NOTHING THAT SHOULD...
EH?
MUH WOLF'S HEAD PENDANT... THE ONE LOGAN GAVE ME... THE ONE FROM MUH DREAM PLACE...
THA' CAME FROM RAHNE'S ROOM!
AAAIEEE
THE LAND O' MAGIC... AND BEASTS..!
BISHOP --?!
ON MY WAY, PROFESSOR!
AEEE

RAHNE?
CAREFUL, BISHOP! THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE ROOM BUT I'M NOT SURE IT'S RAHNE.
THEN WHO IS IT, PROFESSOR?
SOME-ONE WHO BOTH IS AND IS NOT RAHNE SINCLAIR.
GRAHHHR
PROFESSOR, I'M CON...

GRAR
RAHNE!
WHUMP
SLEEP, CHILD.
SHE SURPRISED ME, PROFESSOR... HER SPEED AND SAVAGERY... AND I DID NOT WANT TO HURT HER...
SHE HAS NOT BEEN HARMED, BUT I WANT A FULL MEDICAL SCAN DONE ON THIS GIRL IMMEDIATELY.
RAHNE! MUH POOR GIRL...
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HER, CHARLES?
I'M NOT CERTAIN MOIRA, BUT MY BRIEF MENTAL CONTACT WITH HER TOLD ME THAT WHO-EVER THIS GIRL IS, SHE IS *NOT* RAHNE SINCLAIR...

"... SHE'S NOT EVEN OF THIS WORLD."
A LONG HARD RIDE, LORD SUMMERISLE,
YOU'VE KEPT YOUR THOUGHTS TO YOURSELF FOR MOST OF IT, MY FRIEND.
MY THOUGHTS ARE POOR COMPANIONS, LORD PALADIN.
LOOK YOU -- HERE IN THE CITY IT IS THE SAME AS EVERY-WHERE IN THE KINGDOM.
NOUGHT BUT BLIGHT, DECAY AND DEATH EVERYWHERE WE LOOK.
ALMS? PLEASE, LORDS, THAT WE MIGHT EAT!
COIN WILL NOT BUY WHAT CANNOT BE GROWN. YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED ON YOUR FARM AND NOT COME BEGGING.
CLONG
WHO DARES?!

GENTLY, OLD FRIEND. I AM NOT HARMED.
SIRS, WHAT IS YOUR QUARREL WITH US? WE ARE THE QUEEN'S GUARD AND NOT YOUR ENEMIES.
ANY WHO WILL SIDE WI' THE QUEEN'S AN ENEMY OF ALL GESHEM!
SHE DEFIED THE PROPHECY AND NOW WE PAY THE PRICE! THE BEAST SHOULDA BEEN FED! NOW THE LAND'S DYIN' BECAUSE O' THAT WITCH!
FEED HER TO TH' BEAST!
TREACHEROUS RABBLE!
LEAVE THEM.
THEY ARE RIGHT TO BE AFRAID. THESE ARE FEARFUL TIMES.
COME. WE MUST HURRY TO THE SHAMAN AND TELL HIM WHAT WE'VE SEEN.
HUSBAND! LORD PALADIN! WELCOME BACK! HOW FARED YOU? HOW FARES THE REALM? TELL ME ALL QUICKLY!

I AM THE BETTER FOR BEING IN YOUR ARMS, JEHANE. WOULD THE REALM WERE SO EASILY MENDED.
IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU, LORD PALADIN. YOU HAVE BEEN MUCH IN MY THOUGHTS.
AS YOU HAVE BEEN IN MINE, LADY MISTRAL.
JEHANE, WHERE IS THE SHAMAN?
HE, HECTOR, AND THE QUEEN HAVE BEEN LOCKED AWAY IN HIS TOWER. I THINK HE SEEKS SOME RELIEF TO HER MALADY...
AAAIIEEEEE
THAT'S THE QUEEN'S VOICE!
TO ARMS, MY BROTHER!
TAKE CARE, PALADIN! IF THE QUEEN BE IN ONE OF HER FEVERS, SHE WILL BE DIFFICULT TO RESTRAIN!

YUH BLACKHEARTED BASTARD! YUH DONE IT T'ME AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU?! YUH STOLE ME AWAY AGAIN, HAVEN'T YUH?! WELL?!
WHARAM
LOOK OUT LOOK OUT LOOK OUT..!
RAHNE'S FIRST JOURNEY TO GESHEM AS CHRONICLED IN WOLVERINE: RAHNE OF TERRA -- Kelly
Oh MUH HEAVENS! IT CANNAE BE!
YUH LOOK LIKE... BUT YOU'RE NOT... SO MUH DREAMS... THEY WERE REAL..!
YES. IF YOU'RE DONE FLINGING CROCKERY, LADY SINCLAIR, WE MUST TALK.

THE BATTLE-FIELD.
JUST THE SWORDS AN' RINGS AN' STUFF, YOU LOT. AN' TAKE THE EASIEST BITS FIRST! BY THE STAFF, DO I HAFTA DO EVERYFING M'SELF?
YA DON'T DO ANY OF IT Y'SELF...!
KNOW TH' BEST PART O' STEALIN' FROM TH' DEAD? DON'T GET MUCH STRUGGLE.
Uhnnn!
I DUNNO. HERE'S ONE NOT QUITE DEAD... YET. WE'LL FIX THAT, HEY?
SHWUNK
I NEED YOUR HORSE.

WELL? WHAT ARE YOU WAITIN' FOR, DUNG-BRAIN?
KILL HIM! OR DO I HAFTA DO EVERYFING M'SELF?

OKAY -- BUT IT'LL COST YOU *EXTRA!*

GONNA COST *YOU* MORE THAN YOU CAN *AFFORD*, "DUNGBRAIN."

SCHRAK

SNEKT

-:Sigh:- GUESS I DO HAFTA DO EVERYFING M'SELF.
ALL YA GOTTA DO IS GIVE ME THE FLAMIN' HORSE, DIRTBALL -- AND YA GET TO WALK AWAY WITH YOUR ORGANS INTACT.
BOLD WORDS FOR A RUNT WITH ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE.
BUB, YOU'RE CLOSER TO THE GRAVE THAN I AM.
SNIKT
LIFE WOULD'VE BEEN A LOT SIMPLER IF YOU JUST GAVE ME THE FLAMIN' HORSE WHEN I FIRST ASKED FOR IT...

"... ALL YOU DID WAS WASTE *YOUR* LIFE AND *MY* TIME!"
PLEASE, LADY SINCLAIR -- ALL I ASK YOU IS TO HEAR ME OUT!
WHY SHOULD I? YUH MADE ME THINK THIS WAS ALL A DREAM LAST TIME.
THAT WAS MY ASSOCIATE, THE MAGE -- AND HE WAS WRONG TO DO SO!
BUT WE *DO* NEED YOUR HELP. ALL I ASK IS THAT YOU HEAR ME OUT AND *THEN* DECIDE --
-- AND IF YOU WISH TO GO BACK, IT WILL BE DONE. IS THAT FAIR?
WELL... I GUESS SO.
GESHEM IS A PLACE OF *MAGIC* -- THE PRIMAL, SAVAGE, WILD MYSTIC ENERGY FLOWS THROUGH THE LAND, COLLECTING IN MYSTIC POOLS.
THE STRONGEST SUCH POOL IS HERE BENEATH THE PALACE.
THIS IS THE MYSTIC HEART OF GESHEM.
THAT ENERGY MAY ALSO BE FOUND IN *PEOPLE*, MOST NOTABLY IN THE ROYAL LINE. THE *BOND* BETWEEN MONARCH AND THE LAND KEEPS THE *WILD MAGIC* IN CHECK, BUT THAT BOND MUST BE RENEWED PERIODICALLY.
THAT IS THE SOURCE OF OUR CURRENT SORROWS.

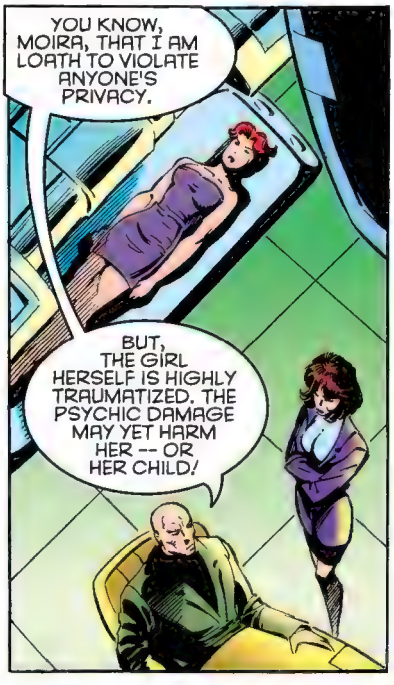
ANCIENT PROPHESY SAID THAT, ON HER SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, OUR PRINCESS RAIN WOULD BE CONSUMED BY THE BEAST.
THIS WAS A METAPHOR FOR HER MYSTIC POWERS ASSERTING THEMSELVES. SHE WOULD DIE AND BE RE-BORN A CREATURE OF MAGIC; REAFFIRMING THE ROYAL BOND WITH THE WILD MAGIC.
OVER THE CENTURIES, THE TRUE MEANING OF THE PROPHECY WAS LOST AND THE WORDS WERE TAKEN LITERALLY.
THE SORCERER, MAGNUS, STOLE A WARRIOR FROM YOUR WORLD AND BOUND HIM WITH POTIONS TO MAKE HIM THINK HE WAS THE BEAST.
SEE WOLVERINE: RAHNE OF TERRA. - Kelly.
AYE. T'WAS LOGAN -- WOLVERINE. MUH FRIEND.
AND THE MAGE, TO SAVE THE PRINCESS, SWAPPED HER WITH YOU.
IT SERVED FOR THAT MOMENT BUT IT MAY HAVE ULTIMATELY DOOMED GESHEM!
IT SUPPRESSED THE CREATURE OF MAGIC WITHIN HER.
IT CRIES OUT TO BE RELEASED. THE QUEEN FALLS INTO TERRIBLE BESTIAL FITS MAKING HER A DANGER TO EVERYONE -- ESPECIALLY TO HERSELF!
WORSE, THE BOND BETWEEN HER AND THE LAND IS BREAKING.
THE WILD MAGIC RETURNS AND THE BEAST MANIFESTS ITSELF OUTSIDE OF THE QUEEN!
UNCHECKED, THE WILD MAGIC WILL CONSUME US ALL!

I THOUGHT YUH SAID THE BEAST 'TWAS ONLY A METAPHOR?
IT IS THE MANIFESTATION OF THE WILD MAGIC THAT ONCE RULED THIS LAND UNTIL, IN THE DISTANT PAST, THE QUEEN'S ANCESTORS DEFEATED IT, TAMED IT, AND MADE IT PART OF THEMSELVES.
UNCHECKED, THE BEAST NOW STALKS THE THRONE IT ONCE HELD -- BUT, TO DO SO, IT MUST FIRST KILL THE QUEEN.
BUT IF IT KILLS ME THEN THAT'S ALL RIGHT?
FEAR NOT. PROVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR YOUR SAFETY.
MY DESIRE IS ONLY TO HAVE YOU PLAY THE QUEEN TO PUT DOWN CIVIL UNREST. WE WILL DEAL WITH THE BEAST.
IF YOU ARE WILLING, THE LADY GREY AND MISTRESS MISTRAL WILL TUTOR YOU IN YOUR ROLE IN TIME TO ADDRESS A GATHERING OF THE DUKES OF THE SHIRES.
I DINNAE KNOW. IS THERE NAE A KING FOR YOUR QUEEN THAT CAN DO THIS?
DOUG, THE PRINCE CONSORT, THE MAGE, AND OTHER KNIGHTS OF THE REALM ARE IN A REMOTE REGION QUELLING A REBELLION.
CONSORT? IN THIS WORLD, I AM MARRIED TO DOUG?
FAITH! IN SOME WAYS, SHAMAN -- THIS WORLD IS KINDER THAN MINE!

"THERE IS, LADY SINCLAIR, *ONE MORE FACT* THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW."
CHARLES, THIS GIRL IS EIGHT WEEKS PREGNANT/ BUT HOW COULD *RAHNE* --?

AS I SAID, SHE ISN'T RAHNE -- NOT OUR RAHNE. WHO SHE IS AND HOW SHE GOT HERE REMAINS A MYSTERY.

I FEAR THE ONLY OPTION IS TO TELEPATHICALLY ENTER HER MIND -- AND DELVE INTO HER MEMORIES.
IS THAT *WISE*, CHARLES?

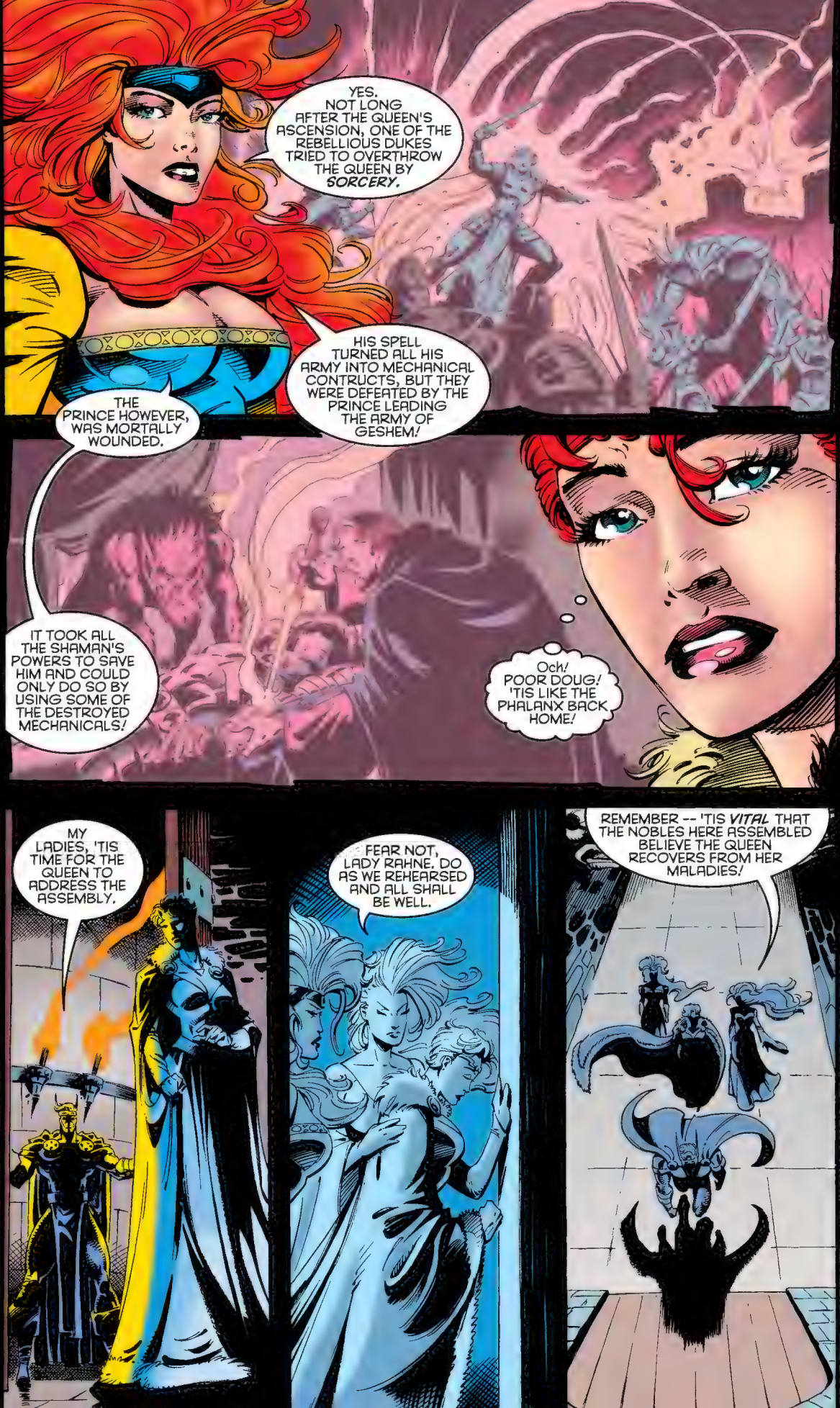

YOU KNOW, MOIRA, THAT I AM LOATH TO VIOLATE ANYONE'S PRIVACY.
BUT, THE GIRL HERSELF IS HIGHLY TRAUMATIZED. THE PSYCHIC DAMAGE MAY YET HARM HER -- OR HER CHILD!

BY HELPING HER, WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND WHAT BECAME OF RAHNE.
I OWE THAT MUCH TO BOTH OF THEM.
SIMPLY PUT, I SEE NO OTHER WAY.

GESHEM.
Paugh! THE ROAD GROWS AS HARSH AS THE LAND!
WHY DO WE BOTHER ATTENDING THE QUEEN? SHE HAS GROWN SICK AND DEMENTED, UNFIT TO RULE!
SHE IS THE REASON THE LAND IS SICK AND EVERYONE KNOWS IT!
SHE DEFIED THE PROPHECY AND WE NOW PAY FOR IT!
THE COIN OF PAYMENT SHALL BE YOUR PALTRY LIVES!
RAHHR
'TIS THE BEAST!

THIS LAND ONCE WAS MINE!
SNEK!
THEN MEN CAME WITH THEIR FARMS AND TOWNS AND TOOK EVERY-THING FROM ME!
THEY BOUND ME WITH THEIR MAGIC AND BURIED ME IN THE EARTH BUT I WAITED, FOR I KNEW MY TIME WOULD COME AGAIN!
AND THIS IS MY TIME!
RRRUN!
AND TELL YOUR LITTLE QUEEN, THE BEAST IS COMING TO TAKE BACK WHAT IS HIS!

AS A WEE CHILD, I *DREAMED* OF THIS -- HAVING A CASTLE AND FINE CLOTHES AND BEING A FAIRY QUEEN --
THE BORDERS BETWEEN DREAM AND MAGIC ARE BUT LIGHTLY MARKED.
AND WHO IS TO SAY, LADY RAHNE, YOU DID NOT VISIT GESHEM IN YOUR *DREAMS?*
Ooh! DON'T BE TELLING ME THAT, MISTRESS MISTRAL! I'M HAVIN' A BAD ENOUGH TIME DEALING WITH THIS PLACE AS IS!
IS THAT YOUR QUEEN AND HER PRINCE, THEN?
LADY JEHANE, TELL ME OF HER PLEASE.
SHE IS A STRONG AND NOBLE WOMAN.
BECAUSE OF HER YOUTH SOME OF THE DUKES IN THE OUTLYING SHIRES THOUGHT TO INCREASE THEIR POWER AT HER *EXPENSE.*
SHE BECAME OUR LIEGE AT AN EARLY AGE, FOLLOWING THE DEATH OF HER FATHER.
BUT THEY MISJUDGED THE QUEEN -- AS MEN OFTEN WILL OF WOMEN.
SHE HAD HER FATHER'S *STEEL WILL* AND THE STRENGTH OF A *LOYAL* AND LOVING PEOPLE TO *UNITE* THE LAND ONCE MORE.
THERE IS SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRINCE'S ARM.
IT LOOKS AS IF IT WERE MADE OF STEEL....


YES. NOT LONG AFTER THE QUEEN'S ASCENSION, ONE OF THE REBELLIOUS DUKES TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE QUEEN BY *SORCERY.*
HIS SPELL TURNED ALL HIS ARMY INTO MECHANICAL CONTRUCTS, BUT THEY WERE DEFEATED BY THE PRINCE LEADING THE ARMY OF GESHEM!
THE PRINCE HOWEVER, WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED.
IT TOOK ALL THE SHAMAN'S POWERS TO SAVE HIM AND COULD ONLY DO SO BY USING SOME OF THE DESTROYED MECHANICALS!
Och! POOR DOUG! 'TIS LIKE THE PHALANX BACK HOME!
MY LADIES, 'TIS TIME FOR THE QUEEN TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY.
FEAR NOT, LADY RAHNE. DO AS WE REHEARSED AND ALL SHALL BE WELL.
REMEMBER -- 'TIS *VITAL* THAT THE NOBLES HERE ASSEMBLED BELIEVE THE QUEEN RECOVERS FROM HER MALADIES!

AYE. THERE ARE THOSE HERE WHO WOULD USE THE QUEEN'S ILLNESS AS PRETEXT TO SEIZE MORE POWER AND THEN THE REALM WOULD DESCEND FURTHER INTO CHAOS!
STEADY, GIRL! 'TIS FAR TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW!
Och -- HOW BAD CAN IT BE?
LORDS, LADIES, GOOD PEOPLE OF GESHEM -- I GIVE YOU THE QUEEN, RAIN OF GESHEM!
BAD ENOUGH.

ELSEWHERE IN GESHEM.
C'MON, HORSE! I'M TIRED TOO! JUST... A LITTLE... MORE../
WHUMP
FLAMIN' HELL!
SORRY, HORSE -- IF IT WASN'T SO BLASTED IMPORTANT I WOULDN'T HAVE RIDDEN YOU SO HARD.
NOW I NEED ANOTHER HORSE, BUT IT DON'T LOOK LIKE THERE'S MUCH OPEN.

SO -- HERE I AM, A WORLD AWAY FROM WHERE I BE-LONG, AND THERE'S NO CIGAR IN SIGHT.
WELL, I FIGURED I OWED THE PEOPLE HERE. LAST TIME 'ROUND I DID SOME DAMAGE AND FAIR'S FAIR.
SHAMAN SAID HE WAS GONNA ASK RHANE'S HELP AS WELL AND I WASN'T GOING TO LEAVE THE KID STUCK HERE ALONE. SHE'S HAD IT BAD ENOUGH AS IS.
NOW THAT I'VE MET THIS BEAST, I CAN'T JUST LEAVE HER TO FACE IT ALONE.
A GOOD FIGHT, A GOOD CAUSE, AND A CHANCE TO BALANCE THE SCALES. NOPE, GOT NO COMPLAINTS.
SNIKT

SHNIKT
'CEPT FOR *MOPES* WHO THINK THEY CAN SNEAK UP ON MY ENHANCED SENSES.
GOT A GOOD REASON FOR TRYIN' TO DO ME FROM BEHIND, BUB?

SAW SOME BANDITS AFORE COME THROUGH ON HORSES LIKE THAT UN.

AIN'T ME.
LOOKIT HIS CLAWS! HIM BE THAT *BEAST!*
RUN!

I *LOVE* MOBS.
HOLD ON. SOMEBODY *ELSE..!*

YOU?!

ILLYANA?!
NAY, SIR, MY NAME IS LILIAN.
THOUGH THESE OTHERS MAY BE AFRAID OF YOU, I AM NOT! I AM EVERY INCH AS GOOD A WARRIOR AS MY BROTHER WHO NOW SERVES THE PRINCE CONSORT!
I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR DEPREDATIONS, SIR BEAST, AND THEY WILL END HERE!
I AIN'T THE BEAST, KIDDO. IF I WAS, YOU'D BE DEAD.
LOOK, AS A SIGN OF GOOD FAITH, I'LL SHEATHE THE CLAWS. STILL WANNA TAKE A WHACK?
IF YOU ARE NOT THE BEAST, THEN WHAT MANNER OF MAN ARE YOU?
LONG STORY. HERE, LOOK AT THIS.
YOUR SHAMAN GAVE ME THIS. SAID, IF I NEEDED TO, JUST SHOW IT TO PROVE I'M ON ROYAL BUSINESS.
'TIS THE QUEEN'S ROYAL SEAL!

WHAT DO YOU REQUIRE, GOOD SIR?
A HORSE. THE BEAST'S AHEAD OF ME AND I GOTTA TRY AND CATCH UP.
FOLLOW ME.
'TIS SAID THAT THE SORCERER *MAGNUS* ONCE TRIED TO USE A MAN WITH CLAWS LIKE YOURS.
THAT *WAS* ME. NOW I'M TRYING TO MAKE GOOD.
THEN I WISH YOU WELL.
THANKS, KID. IT WAS... GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
BUT... WHEN DID WE EVER MEET *BEFORE*?

VERY ELSEWHERE...
WELL, NOW I'M CERTAIN THIS IS NO MALICIOUS IMPOSTOR. EVERYTHING INDICATES SHE IS FROM A *PARALLEL UNIVERSE.*
THESE STONE PLINTHS MUST REPRESENT HER *MEMORIES.*
I BELIEVE EACH ONE IS SOMEONE NEAR AND DEAR TO HER, FROZEN IN PLACE AS SHE TRIES TO KEEP HOLD OF HER IDENTITY.
STRANGE HOW EACH HAS A COUNTERPART IN *OUR* WORLD.
AMAZING! IT'S LIKE LOOKING INTO A *FLAWED* MIRROR -- AN IMAGE, YET *NOT* ME.
FROM WHAT I CAN GLEAN FROM THE GIRL'S MIND, *MY* DOPPELGANGER, IS MOST LIKELY THE CAUSE OF THE SWITCH! BUT TO WHAT *PURPOSE?*
HELP! HELP ME PLEASE!

SHAMAN! THANK THE ROOD, YOU'VE COME! HELP ME! TH' BEAST WANTS TO DESTROY ME!
HOW DO YOU *KNOW* THAT?
ARE YOU MAD?!
THE PROPHECY! IT SAID THE BEAST WOULD DEVOUR ME ON MUH SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY!
I DEFIED IT BUT HERE I AM... I DON'T KNOW WHERE... AN' IT HAS COME FOR ME!
I TRIED TO CHEAT MUH DESTINY BUT IT HAS CAUGHT UP TO ME AT LAST AND NOW I'M GOING TO DIE!
SHE'S A MUTANT -- EVEN THERE!
AND BY FORCE OF WILL, SHE HAS *DENIED* THAT SIDE OF HER! BUT THE TERRIBLE STRESS OF IT NOW THREATENS TO DESTROY HER MIND!

GESHEM.
I WAS WRONG! THUY'RE LISTENIN' T'ME!
FOR CENTURIES, MY FAMILY AND I HAVE BEEN BONDED NOT ONLY T'TH'LAND BUT T'TH' PEOPLE OF GESHEM! WE'VE NEVER TURNED OUR BACKS ON YOU WHATEVER TH' CAUSE!
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOUR OATHS? DO OUR WORDS MEAN NOTHING? WILL Y'BREAK FAITH WITH THOSE THAT HAVE KEPT FAITH WI'YOU? I WOULD NAE HAVE THOUGHT ANY OF YOU SO MEAN OR BASE!
T'GETHER WE HAVE FACED PERILS IN TH' PAST AN T'GETHER WE MUST FACE THEM NOW, BOUND BY TIES OF LOVE AN' FAITHFULNESS!
SHE SPEAKS WELL, HECTOR -- WITH GREAT FIRE AND CONVICTION.
WELL ENOUGH TO BE QUEEN IF THE TRUE QUEEN CANNOT?
WHAT YOU SUGGEST IS TREASON, HECTOR!
SOMETIMES TREASON IS A NECESSARY EVIL, MY LORD.

WHAM
THE BEAST!
DUKE HANDFAST AND I WERE ATTACKED BY THE BEAST ONLY A FEW HOURS RIDE FROM THIS SPOT! IT COMES!
AND THIS IS THE RESULT OF THE QUEEN'S NOT SUBMITTING WHEN SHE SHOULD HAVE DONE! WE SHALL ALL BE KILLED BY THE BEAST!
DOG! DO YOU DARE ADDRESS HER MAJESTY IN SUCH A MANNER?!
WHAM
WHEN THE BEAST SIPS YOUR BLOOD, SUMMERISLE, YOU'LL SEE WHAT THANKS YOUR LOYALTY GETS YOU!
THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE BEST GO. THOSE WHO ARE LOYAL TO THE CROWN SHOULD STAND WITH ME AND PREPARE TO REPEL THIS BEAST!

Ah, THE SWEET SCENT OF *FEAR!* WHAT *SAVOR* IT GIVES THE *MEAT!*
THE *CLOSER* I COME TO THE CASTLE THE *GREATER* MY POWER GROWS!
SOON, THE MAGIC WILL ABANDON THE QUEEN *ENTIRELY* AND THE *BEAST* WILL RULE THE LAND ONCE MORE!
THE BEAST IS SIGHTED! LIGHT YOUR FUSES!
NOW SEND THE BEAST UNTO *PERDITION!*
WHOOM

Uh oh, HORSE! LOOKS LIKE THEY STARTED THE BASH WITHOUT US!
HAHAHAHA!
IS THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR QUEEN?! THEN SHE IS ALREADY DEAD!
MILORDS AND LADIES, THE BEAST STILL STANDS!
THEN IT IS TIME TO TRY STEEL AND SINEW. OPEN THE GATES.
FORWARD, MY HEROES! FOR QUEEN AND GESHEM!

FOR RAIN AND GESHEM!
DOWN! PULL HIM DOWN! BURY HIM IN STEEL!
THEY DID *BURY* ME, FOOL, FOR *CENTURIES* -- DEEP WITHIN THE *EARTH!*
AND IF THE *EARTH* WAS NOT TOMB ENOUGH TO HOLD ME, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK *YOU* CAN FARE BETTER?!

RAHHHR
COME, YOU SPINELESS DOGS! COME AT ME AGAIN! MAKE MY VICTORY THAT MUCH SWEETER!
THAAAK
YARGH
THAT WAS BUT A *TASTE* OF MY *BASILISK MASK*, CREATURE! DO YOU WISH *ANOTHER?!*

LET ME FINISH THE DOG WITH THE SHARD OF KYM!
SCHWUCK
I AM... FAR FROM FINISHED, FOOL!
SCHRECK
PALADIN! IF YOU HAVE KILLED HIM, ANIMAL..!
FEAR NOT FOR HIM.
RRIP
I WILL FINISH HIM WHEN I HAVE CRUSHED YOUR SKULL!

LADY JEHANE, IF WE WOULD *SAVE* OUR MEN, WE SHOULD ACT IN *CONCERT!*
THEN STRIKE *NOW*, MISTRAL!
IT WORKS, MY LADY! THE BEAST IS CAUGHT IN THE PSYCHIC WHIRLWIND AND *HE CANNOT HARM WHAT HE CANNOT TOUCH!*
TRUE ENOUGH, WITCHES! I CAN-NOT TOUCH YOU --
-- BUT I MAY STILL SNARE --
HIM!

NO! THE FORCE COULD KILL MY HUSBAND AS WELL! MISTRAL, RELEASE THE STORM!
YOU ARE POWERFUL WITCHES, BOTH! I COULD USE A HAND IN DISPOSING OF YOU.
NO!
SHRAAK
SHRAAK
BY THE WOLF, ANIMAL -- IF YOU HAVE MADE ME THE CAUSE OF MY OWN WIFE'S DEATH THEN YOUR OWN DEATH WILL BE LONG AND PAINFUL!

QUIET.
WHAM
NOW, O QUEEN -- WHAT REMAINS BETWEEN YOU AND ME?
RAHHHRR
RAHHHRR
Och! THAT SOUND! GIVES ME CHILLS T'HEAR IT!
THE BEAST HAS WON -- AND NOW COMES HERE!

MUIR ISLAND.
CHARLES, WHAT'S GOIN' ON, MAN?
Y'BEEN IN THE GIRL'S MIND FOR HOURS AND NOW SHE WRITHES AND MOANS SO PITEOUSLY! WHAT'S HAPPENIN' IN THERE?
RRRRR
SHAMAN! PLEASE... PLEASE... HELP ME! THE BEAST IS COME T'EAT ME ALIVE! WILL YOU NOT SAVE ME?
WHAT TO DO? I COULD HELP HER BLOCK IT OUT AGAIN... BUT THE POWER WILL RE-SURFACE AND NEXT TIME THE STUGGLE MIGHT WELL DESTROY HER MIND!
SHAMAN! SAVE ME!
NO.

GESHEM.
THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR. YEAH, WAY TOO FAMILAR.
SOME OF THE SCENTS... THIS ONE SMELLS LIKE...
BISHOP!
NO, HOLD ON, CLOSE BUT NOT THE SAME. ONE OF THIS PLACE'S FLAMIN' DOUBLES. ALIVE... BUT NOT BY MUCH...
UHHHHN../
HOLD ON, BUB. CAVALRY'S COME.
THANK THE STAFF! BUT THE OTHERS... PALADIN... LADY MISTRAL... MY WIFE JEHANE..?!

-:SNIFF:- NEARBY... ALIVE... BUT OUT OF IT.
THE QUEEN! SHE'S UNDEFENDED! THE BEAST..!
Huh. CAN HARDLY STAND AND HE'S OFF TO DUTY. JUST LIKE SCOTT.
FORGET IT, BUB. YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE. TH' OTHERS NEED HELP. SEE THAT THEY GET IT.
SNIKT
SNIKT
LEAVE TH' HOUND DOG T'ME.

CHIK
BAD NEWS. SURVIVORS ARE COMING IN AND THE BEAST SLAUGHTERED A LEGION OF OUR TROOPS. WORSE -- WE'VE LOST SIGHT OF HIM.
CHIK
WHAT OF LORD SUMMERISLE AND THE QUEEN'S GUARD?
LAST TO FALL BUT THEY'RE ALL DOWN.
NO!
CHIK
I MUST ACT QUICKLY! LADY SINCLAIR, YOU HAVE PLAYED YOUR PART WELL BUT I MUST RETURN YOU NOW BEFORE THE BEAST...

GRAHHHRR
KRESHH
NOW, AT LAST, WE ARE FACE TO FACE! ALL YOUR TRICKS HAVE FAILED YOU, SHAMAN! NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO?
PLAY ONE LAST TRICK!
HECTOR, NO!
KRAAK

YOUR FAMILIAR FALLS, SHAMAN. WHO DEFENDS YOUR PRECIOUS QUEEN *NOW?*
WITH STAFF AND SPELL, *I* DO -- TO THE LAST BREATH IN MY BODY!
NO!
I FIGHT MUH *OWN* BATTLES! NO ONE *DIES* FOR ME!
AND I CAN BE AS MUCH A BEAST AS *YOU!*
WOULD Y'FACE ME *NOW,* Y'DEVIL?!
FOR A *SECOND,* YOU FRIGHTENED ME.
I THOUGHT THE QUEEN HAD RE-AFFIRMED THE BOND.
BUT THEN HOW COULD I DRAW ON THE *SAME* POWER?
YOU'RE *NOT* THE QUEEN, ARE YOU?
AND THE LAND *IS* MINE AND I'VE ALREADY *WON!*

ARE YOU JUST GOING T'*STAND* THERE, SHAMAN, AND LET THE BEAST *DESTROY* ME?!
CHILD, THAT BEAST IS A *PART* OF YOU. *DENYING* IT IS WHAT WILL DESTROY YOU. YOUR *FEARS* ARE WHAT CONSUME YOU.
THE QUEEN OF GESHEM FEARS *NOTHING!*
PROVE IT. OPEN THE DOOR.
ERRRNNK
SO, SISTER -- WILL YOU ACCEPT ME?
I SHALL... I *MUST!*
THEN WE ARE ONE.

DOCTOR MacTAGGERT?! WHERE DID --?!
I DINNAE KNOW!
IT'S OVER, MOIRA. I DISCOVERED WHAT WAS TROUBLING THE CHILD...
NAE, 'TIS FAR FROM *OVER*, CHARLES!
TH' GURL IS *GONE* AND WE STILL HA' NAE IDEA WHERE *RAHNE* IS!
SHAMAN!
YOUR HIGHNESS?! HOW DID YOU..?!
I DINNAE KNOW I...
OH!
GRAHHNR
RAHHHR

WHAM
AWAY!
AT LAST -- THE TRUE QUEEN RETURNS. FAR, FAR TOO LATE TO CHANGE ANYTHING. YOU'RE JUST ANOTHER THROAT TO RIP.
FOOL OF A BEAST -- THE QUEEN RETURNED WITHOUT MY AID, WITH HER OWN POWER. THE MAGICK OF THE LAND IS HERS, NOT YOURS, AND YOU HAVE LOST!
WORDS CANNOT SLAY ME, MAGICIAN!
NO WORDS THEN, BUB! JUST YOU AND ME -- TOOTH AND CLAW!

RAHRR

WHUMP

GRAHRR

THUMP

WHUMP

SNARL

SNIK

SHAMAN, WHAT IS THIS?

THE *FATE* OF GESHEM IS BEING DECIDED, YOUR HIGHNESS.

MUH MONEY'S ON *LOGAN!*

ANY *LAST WORDS?* SPIT'EM OUT! YOU HAVEN'T MUCH *TIME* LEFT!

SHREK

NARAHRR

YOU'RE NOT *HEALING* SO FAST ANYMORE, BUB. NOTICE?
I HAVE.
SHNIKT
WITH THE QUEEN'S RETURN, AND, IT SEEMS, FULLY *HEALED* AND *HERSELF*, THE BEAST IS *CUT OFF* FROM THE LAND'S *MAGIC*.
HE CAN BE *HURT!*
AYE, LOGAN! SLICE THE BEAST DOWN T'*SIZE!*

SO CAN YOUR CHAMPION!
SHKT
LONG BEFORE YOU WORMS EXISTED, THIS LAND WAS MINE AND IT SHALL BE MINE LONG AFTER YOU ARE DUST!
YOUR DAY IS OVER, BUB.
NO!

SHWUMP
GRAAHHRR*
SHWUMP
IT'S FINISHED.
NOT QUITE.
WHAT'S HAPPENIN' TO ITS BODY?!

GRAAAAHHRR
SHAKOOM
GUY KNOWS HOW T'MAKE AN EXIT, eh?
THE BEAST IS AN ANCIENT SPIRIT -- PRIMORDIAL -- AND REQUIRES A HUMAN HOST TO WALK THE LAND.
THIS UNFORTUNATE MAN WAS IT --
-- HOW AND WHY WE'LL NEVER KNOW.

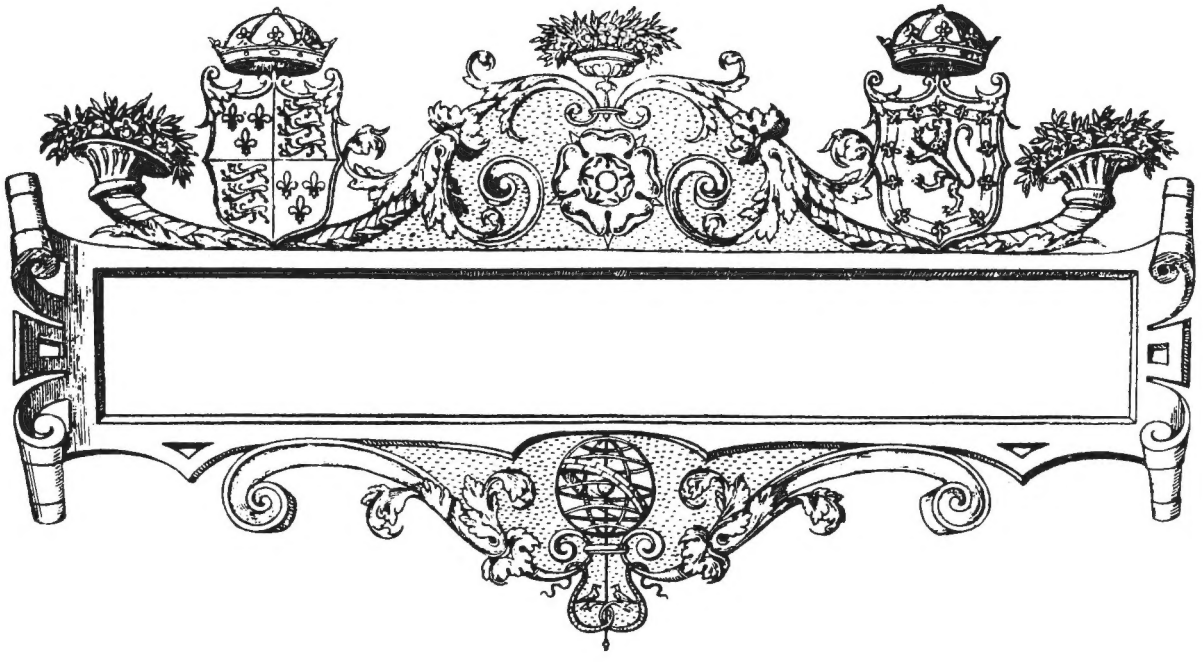
YOU OKAY, KIDDO?
Oh, AYE -- BUT WE NEED TO STOP *MEETING* LIKE THIS, MISTER LOGAN!
AND *YOU*, YOUR HIGHNESS?
Oh, I'M BETTER THAN I'VE BEEN IN A LONG TIME. WHOLE AND HEALED.
BUT SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
I SAW SOMETHING LIKE HER IN M'*DREAM*. HOW CAN SHE STAND *HERE* THEN?
YOU'LL BE *MORE* WONDERIN'...
... WHEN YUH SEE ME...
... IN MUH *HUMAN* FORM!
BY THE *STAFF!* IT'S A *COPY* O' M'SELF!
FUNNY, BY *MY* LIGHTS, *YOU'RE* THE DOUBLE OF *ME!*
ANY-BODY GOT A CIGAR?

THIS IS MY DOING, YOUR HIGHNESS. TO SAVE YOU, I STRETCHED MY HAND INTO ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL WORLD AND BEGGED YOUR OTHER SELF TO AID US.
TO PROTECT YOU BOTH, I ASKED THIS MAN TO SERVE AS YOUR KNIGHT. HE WAS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN I KNEW HE COULD BE.
BUT NOW WE MUST RETURN THEM BOTH TO THEIR OWN WORLD. I FEAR THE EFFECT WE MIGHT HAVE ON DIMENSIONAL SPACE IF YOU AND YOUR TWIN LINGER TOGETHER TOO LONG.
MY PEOPLE AND I WILL BE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT. I NAME YOU A PEER OF THE REALM.
Och, WELL -- I CANNAE BELIEVE -- 'TIS A GREAT HONOR.
GO, LADY RHANE SINCLAIR -- WITH OUR THANKS.

AND YOU, GOOD SIR -- I OWE YOU MY LIFE. HOW CAN I REPAY YOU?
YOU CAN'T -- SO FORGET IT.
I AM QUEEN AND WILL NOT BE DENIED. SOMETHING TO TAKE WITH YOU -- IN YOUR HEART...
NOW AND FOREVER, I NAME YOU A KNIGHT OF GESHEM.
BAM
NOW, SIR LOGAN -- AWAY!
YOUR HIGHNESS?!
M'LADY, FORGIVE OUR BOLDNESS -- BUT IS IT REALLY YOU?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Oh, AYE.
RIGHT AS RAIN -- EVERYTHING IS AS RIGHT AS RAIN.

BACK AT MUIR ISLAND.
CHARLES, WE'VE SEARCHED TH' WHOLE ISLAND. GUESS IT WAS A FOOLISHNESS T'HOPE RAHNE WOULD RETURN WHEN HER OTHER SELF VANISHED...
MY MENTAL SCANS HAVE RECEIVED NO...
WAIT. SHE'S HERE.
"SHE'S IN HER BEDROOM ASLEEP."
Och, IT MAKES Y'WANT T'SCREAM SOMETIMES, DON'T IT, CHARLES? THEY TEAR Y'APART WI' WORRYIN' AND THEN THEY TURN UP SLEEPIN' AS EASILY AS A BABE.
MAYBE WE SHOULD WAKE HER UP -- QUESTION HER -- FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED..?
TIME ENOUGH WHEN SHE WAKES, BISHOP.

"FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO HAD A BUSY DAY."
SWEET DREAMS, YOUR "HIGHNESS". BET BEING QUEEN FOR ONE DAY WASN'T WHAT YOU EXPECTED WHEN YOU WOKE UP THIS MORNING, eh?
YOU EVER NEED HELP, PRINCESS, YOU JUST CALL ON "SIR" LOGAN.
AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHAT A FLAMIN' KNIGHT'S SUPPOSED TO DO, ISN'T IT?
END



KAMIC RIDER
MARIKA